

APPENDIX J

PAST, PRESENT, AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE ACTIONS

The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) defined "cumulative impact" in regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA as follows: *"Cumulative impact" is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.*" (40 CFR 1508.7)

The Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act Procedures (36 CFR 220) also define reasonably foreseeable future actions at 36 CFR 220.3. *"Those Federal or non-Federal activities not yet undertaken, for which there are existing decisions, funding, or identified proposals. Identified proposals for Forest Service actions are described in 220.4(a)(1). 36 CFR 220.4 (1): "The Forest Service has a goal and is actively preparing to make a decision on one or more alternative means of accomplishing that goal and the effects can be meaningfully evaluated (see 40 CFR 1508.23)..."*

Members of the BWCAW NNIP Management Project interdisciplinary team developed this summary of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. This appendix summarizes current knowledge of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within and adjacent (as appropriate) to the Project area. Resource specialists used this information where applicable in their analyses to describe potential cumulative effects that may occur with the alternatives.

Vegetation Management Projects

The effects of the Superior National Forest vegetation management projects that are adjacent to the BWCAW and that have specific proposed actions or decisions are considered in the cumulative effects analysis of some resource specialists. Ground disturbance associated with these projects and changes in vegetative cover may influence cumulative effects for some resources. These projects are listed below:

Border EIS
Echo Trail EIS
Glacier EIS
Twins EA
Toohey EA
Birch EA

Vegetation management projects on state and county ownerships were also considered by some resource specialists in cumulative effects analyses. Harvest plans on state lands were summarized using GIS covers provided by the MNDNR, the FINAL Border Lakes Subsection Forest Resource Management Plan and associated standlist (sfrmp_Border-Lakes_10YrStandList.pdf), and other harvest related documents provided on the MNDNR website (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>). Harvest plans on county lands were summarized based on GIS covers provided by Saint Louis County ('Forest

cover' and 'PlanHarvests2010_2014'), and Lake County ('LkCoSoldSales'). Cook County does not manage any lands adjacent to the BWCAW.

Fuels Reduction Projects

The 2001 BWCAW Fuel Treatment EIS is the only fuels reduction project that has past and ongoing actions in the project area. Prescribed burns have been and are being conducted to reduce fuels associated with the 1999 blowdown. These projects also involve construction of control line and helispots in some cases. Since 2001, approximately 49,367 acres of prescribed burns have been conducted in the BWCAW. 25,986 more acres are proposed for treatment (USDA Forest Service 2012).

Wildland Fires

Past and future wildland fires are considered in some resource specialists' cumulative effects analyses. Fires from the 1990's have generally regenerated adequately so that they are not at risk for NNIP invasion and are not considered here. However, since 2000 the following fires have influenced and continue to influence the distribution of NNIP in the project area. The effects of these fires on NNIP distribution are accounted for in the existing condition and proposed action for the BWCAW NNIP Management Project:

Fire	Year	Acres in Project Area
Alpine Lake Fire	2005	1,335
Turtle	2006	2,085
Cavity Lake Fire	2006	24,152
Famine/Redeye	2006	5,898
Ham	2007	20,030
Pagami	2011	84,158

194 smaller fires totaling 245 acres also occurred at scattered locations across the BWCAW during this time period. Wildland fires are expected to continue in the BWCAW during implementation of the BWCAW NNIP Management Project.

NNIP Management

In April 2006, the Forest Supervisor decided to implement Alternative 2 of the Non-native Invasive Plant Management Project EA. Since then, the Superior National Forest has been conducting manual NNIP treatments in the project area as well herbicide treatments adjacent to the project area. The table below shows NNIP treatment accomplishments in the project area since 2008. Treatments are continuing in the project area in 2012, as well as in the Pagami Creek Fire burned area adjacent to the project area.

Year	Sites Treated in Project Area	Acres Treated in Project Area
2008	100	0.6
2009	372	4.7
2010	349	5.5
2011	338	5.1

Recreation Projects

The effects of Superior National Forest recreation projects in or immediately adjacent to the wilderness are considered by some resource specialists in cumulative effects analyses. Such projects include campsite construction and trail construction and reroutes. The following projects are included: Curtain Falls portage reroute (LaCroix 2011), Slim Lake campsite construction (Kawishiwi 2013), Dent Lake campsite relocation (Tofte 2012), Fishhook Lake campsite construction (Gunflint 2010), and the South Fowl Snowmobile Access Project EIS (Gunflint 2012).

Minerals Projects

Mineral exploration activities may be considered on lands immediately adjacent to the project area for the BWCAW NNIP Management Project – such future projects are analyzed in the Federal Hardrock Mineral Prospecting Permit EIS. The Record of Decision (2012) for the Federal Hardrock Mineral Prospecting Permit EIS gives Forest Service consent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for issuing 29 federal hardrock mineral prospecting permits. This project includes analysis of projected impacts derived from potential prospecting permit applications and operating plans. This project is considered in some resource specialists' cumulative effects sections.

Minnesota Department of Transportation Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (MNDOT ARMER) Project

MNDOT proposes to construct two new radio towers and replace two existing towers, showing age and limited capabilities, for the operation of the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) system. These towers would be visible from the BWCAW and could have visual impacts to BWCAW visitors. This project is considered in some resource specialists' cumulative effects sections.

References:

USDA Forest Service. 2012. Superior National Forest final monitoring report for Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness fuels treatments. On file with Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest, 8901 Grand Ave. Place, Duluth, MN. 55808. Pp. 9-10.